destroying power, to which all organic substances brought within its influence *and not thus protected* readily succumb.

In this connection I may remark that Agaricus edulis has the odor of Stachys hyssopifolia, Mchx. C. F. AUSTIN, Closter, N. J.

[The Californian Eschscholtzia, it is well known, has "a colorless juice but with the odor of muriatic acid." We have the best authority for saying that this juice on being tested gave no trace of chlorine. Perhaps the same result will appear in the case of this new Agaricus.—EDS.]

§ 283. **Publications.**—1. *New York State Museum: Reports of the Botanist, Charles H. Peck, to the Regents of the University.*—Two of Mr. Peck's valuable and interesting annual botanical reports—the 29th and 30th—have recently made their appearance. The tardy manner in which the State issues these important contributions is greatly to be deprecated, inasmuch as it must not only prove a serious annoyance to those naturalists who originally describe therein species new to science, but also to others working in the same field, and who are desirous of obtaining access to such descriptions as early as possible. Upon consulting the 29th Report, which contains an account of the work done in the year 1875, we find that during this season there were added to the State Herbarium 201 species of plants not before represented therein; and that there were collected and received 153 species, all *fungi* and new to the Herbarium. Of this number, 80 are regarded as new to science. It appears that up to the date at which this report was submitted to the Regents (Jan. 1, 1876) nearly 300 species of *fungi* that attack and inhabit various living flowering-plants had been detected within the limits of the State. Many of these are parasitic on food-plants, and hence prove a serious injury to the Agricultural industry of the country. On the other hand, some of these fungi attack noxious weeds, and hinder their dissemination and multiplication, and for this reason must be regarded as the friends and allies of the farmer. Mr. Peck, believing that it is desirable that the life histories of these fungus friends and foes should be better known than they are, and that the means of multiplying or diminishing their numbers should be under control of the farmer, submits, as an appendix, a list of the parasites with the names of their host-plants. As those who have in charge the distribution of these reports, however, keep them out of the hands of the farmer, it is not very plain what good the publication of such a list is to do *him*.

An examination of the 30th Report reveals the fact that during the year 1876, there were added to the Herbarium 130 species of plants not before represented therein. During the same period there were collected in the State 168 species new to the Herbarium, 129 of which were fungi. Of the latter 69 are regarded as new or previously undescribed. In the preface to his Report Mr. Peck gives a sad description of the extensive ravages of a beetle (*Hylurgus rufipennis*) among the Spruces of the Adirondacks. The report closes with a list of parasitic fungi and their host plants, as a supplement to the one mentioned above, and presumably for the use of the farmer!—2. *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences*,

Philadelphia, April—September, 1878. Of botanical interest we note Thomas Meehan on "The law governing Sex." It is no new thing hereabout that *Acer rubrum* is in effect dioecious. but the observation of the checked growth of the fairly starting stamens or pistils is very interesting as showing a development caught in the act, and is similar to what occurs in *Silene inflata* as we pointed out years ago. Dr. J. Gibbons Hunt and Mr. Edward Potts throw some new light on the action of the glands in the Asclepiads. Dr. Hunt's observations were made on *Stapelia asterias*, the disagreeable odor of which, it seems, is, by its attraction for flies, a means to cross-fertilization. "Continuous observation for several hours, under a lens which took in a large field of view, revealed many flies eagerly applying their tongues all over the petals and essential organs, apparently eating with almost intoxicated relish the attractive excretion covering those parts. This banquet was indulged in in safety until their tongues came in contract with one or more of five black spots situated near and alternate with the stamens, when, with amazing quickness, the fly was seized and firmly held by the, tongue, a helpless prisoner. Now a struggle commenced, and if the fly was small and not vigorous, he remained in the trap, but, if large and strong, his efforts to escape were successful, and he flew away dragging from its position the black sensitive spot and also the pollen masses, two of which are attached to each trap. This adhesion of the fly's tongue to these black spots is not caused by any cementing liquid, but it is fairly caught by an organic structure, the action resembling that of a common steel trap used for catching rats." "The organ at the juncture of the pollen masses is the sensitive trap, and when touched, however lightly, by the fly or other object (as a hair for example), the *opposing, separated, parallel, and hard edges instantaneously close like pincers*, and the prey is secured." The words we have italicized contain the novelty in Dr. Hunt's observation, and seem to indicate a sensibility in the so-called gland, the action of which gland in our common Asclepiads has often puzzled us. Dr. Hunt's attention was called to the subject by Mr. Isaac Burk, and at the suggestion of the Doctor, Mr. Potts examined such species of the genus Asclepias as were within his reach. His statement is that when a fine hair touched "the sensitive inner surface of a gland" it caused "it instantly to contract." He notices that "the glands remain open and susceptible long after plucking the flowers." The figure he gives is not so decisive as that of the Stapelia, and allows of mechanical action as a possible explanation.

§ 284. **Parry's Herbarium.**—"Dr. C. C. Parry, of Davenport, Ia., has deposited in the Academy of Science, at that city, his large botanical collection of thirty thousand specimens, the labor of thirty-six years."